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PROCEEDINGS

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ANNUAL MEETING

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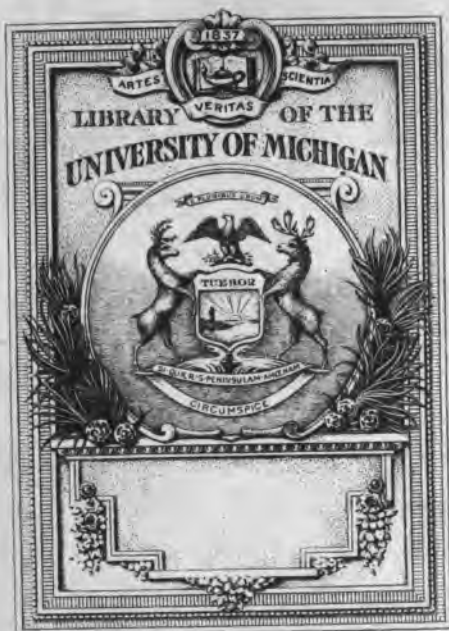
JUNE 17, 1862.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, PRINTERS, 3 CORNHILL.

1862.

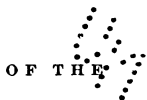


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PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING



Bunker Hill Monument Association,

JUNE 17, 1862.



BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, PRINTERS, 3 CORNHILL.

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PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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The Annual Meeting of the BUNKER HILL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION was held at the Hall of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, Bedford Street, on Tuesday, June 17th, 1862, at eleven o'clock. The meeting was called to order by the PRESIDENT. The record of the last Annual Meeting was read and approved.

SAMUEL H. RUSSELL presented his annual report as Treasurer, which was read, together with the certificate of the Auditing Committee, and accepted.

The PRESIDENT then read his report.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT has the honor to submit his Annual Report to the Association:—

It appears from the weekly returns made by John B. Goodnow, the keeper of the Monument, that for the year ending May 31, 1862, there were 10,944 adults, and 1116 children, making in all 12,060 persons, who visited the Monument, paying the prescribed fee. The

gross receipts from this source amounted to \$1,721 12, being about \$1000 less than the average of preceding years. Enough has, however, been realized to keep the property of the Association in order, and to defray the ordinary expenditures of the year. It could not be expected that there would be any accumulation during the civil war, for improvements contemplated to be made in the future. The prospect now promises a larger income for the approaching year, and after that, it may be hoped that the usual amount of former years will be attained.

Since our last anniversary, three of the Board of Directors, distinguished citizens, and most honored and exemplary men, have died,—NATHAN APPLETON, WILLIAM APPLETON, and LUTHER V. BELL.

NATHAN APPLETON was elected Director in 1825, and faithfully served the Association in that capacity for thirty-seven years. He was one of the first benefactors of the Association, and at each renewal of the work in the erection of the Monument, he liberally coöperated, by his labors, influence, and repeated subscriptions.

WILLIAM APPLETON has been Director since 1840. He took a prominent part in the memorable effort of that year which resulted in the completion of the Monument. It was through his agency that the noble donation of ten thousand dollars, by JUDAH TOURO, of

New Orleans, was received and transmitted. He was a member of the Committee of Arrangements for the celebration of 1843 and of 1850. For a period of twenty-one years he was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Corporation and of the Directors, and frequently rendered important service upon committees.

DR. LUTHER V. BELL, on leaving the position which he admirably filled as Superintending Physician at the McLean Asylum, and taking up his residence in Charlestown, in 1856, became a Director, and has ever since been a member of the Standing Committee. He manifested great interest in the contemplated improvements of the Association, as to which he evinced great judgment and taste. He was a liberal contributor to the Statue of GEN. WARREN, and he expressed his willingness to join with others at any time in causing similar works of art to be executed,—that being a mode of commemorating great men which he deemed highly appropriate and useful.

While the two APPLETONS — who have identified their names with munificent benevolence — lived to an advanced age, and after all public duties had been most thoughtfully discharged, and public honors laid aside, died tranquilly at home among friends, and in a community endeared to them by many ties,—it was the lot of DR. BELL to die in a distant scene, in the meridian of life, while in the service of his

country as Brigade Surgeon in the army of Volunteers, on the banks of the Potomac. It is pleasant to me to remember that, on the 24th of January last, I passed a day with him in Washington, the last visit which he made there, on his first and last leave of absence from the camp. He spoke feelingly of Bunker Hill, of the interests of the Association, of his home, of the cause of the country and the noble manner in which it was sustained by the people. He appeared then in full health. It was on his return to the field that he took a cold, which terminated in his untimely death just three weeks afterwards.

One cannot but observe, on recurring to those familiar names which, within a few years, have been stricken by death from the roll of officers of this Association, how closely they have been identified with other patriotic, benevolent, or scientific institutions, and that in them eminent public service and high personal worth are beautifully united with their official usefulness to this institution. Truly, a generation of noble men is passing away. May those who come after them strive worthily to cherish their noble principles and to imitate their example.

On the twenty-fifth of September last, JEROME NAPOLEON, Prince Imperial of France, visited the Monument. He was received by the PRESIDENT, the Standing Committee, and many of the Directors, among whom was

the MAYOR of Boston, and by other distinguished citizens. The French and American ensigns were displayed from the Monument upon his entrance on Monument Square, and at the same time the national air of France was played. After carefully noticing the peculiar features of the battle-ground, and recalling some of the historical incidents connected with it, he perused with interest the original letter of LA FAYETTE to the Committee of Arrangements for laying the corner stone of the Monument, accepting the invitation to be present on that occasion.

The PRINCE had visited our National Capital; he had also passed within the lines of the rebel insurgents at Manassas; he had frequent opportunity to witness the martial array and bearing of the grand army of the United States, composed mainly of volunteer citizen soldiers, who, upon the demand of their country, had left their several avocations, and assumed her defence as their own. It is believed that His Imperial Highness returned home thoroughly impressed with the prowess and abundant resources of our Republic, and of the certainty of our success in the cause which now engages the national heart. The cordial reception extended to the PRINCE by the GOVERNOR of the Commonwealth, the MAYOR of Boston, by MR. EVERETT, and other distinguished citizens of the metropolis, could not fail to awaken the kindest feelings in his own breast; and it called forth, on his return, the

special acknowledgment of the EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH. This visit, and that of the PRINCE OF WALES, in the preceding year, to the same country, but then happily in the sunshine of domestic tranquillity, have undoubtedly produced a favorable influence upon the governments and people of the two great nations with whom our own has so intimate relation; the one as being our fatherland, the other our friend and ally in the early days of our independence.

On the seventeenth of June, 1823, the Bunker Hill Monument Association was first organized. In two years from that day the young patriotic Society had obtained the means to acquire to itself a large part of the field of the battle of Bunker Hill, and to lay, with imposing ceremonies, the corner stone of the Monument. In 1843, just twenty years from its organization,—the great work having been completed by popular aid alone,—the Association, with equally imposing ceremonies, and in the presence of the whole executive government of the nation, and of patriotic and official personages from every State, inaugurated one of the grandest Monuments to one of the grandest objects of commemoration in the world. The same great ORATOR—the revered statesman and patriot—spoke on each occasion to an immense audience, of the value of popular representative government founded upon the virtue and intelligence of the peo-

ple, of the inestimable advantages, security, and promise of our own, so founded, and so munificently endowed with beneficent institutions and influences. It is now •but nineteen years from the completion of the Monument, and we behold our country engaged for more than a year in quelling a gigantic rebellion. It is a singular coincidence, that in 1861, eighteen years after the Monument was finished,—the precise period that it was in the process of erection,—the country, whose independence and union it was designed to commemorate, was putting forth its energies to prevent her dismemberment and downfall. If we thought this nefarious conspiracy would succeed, then we should deem the great labor of our Association to have been in vain. The Monument “bearing no inscription” indeed, would tell then to coming generations of the priceless heritage we ourselves had lost, as well as of the heroic struggles and sacrifices which our fathers made in gaining and bestowing it upon us.

But in our darkest forebodings we never doubted our country’s ultimate triumph in this stupendous war. A year ago to-day, the national flag was raised by HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR of the Commonwealth, with appropriate services, to the summit of the Monument, to vindicate the honor of that glorious banner which had been shamefully insulted and betrayed by American citizens. At frequent intervals it has been displayed from the towering height, as if to verify the

prophetic aspiration of WEBSTER, "that in those days of disaster which, as they come upon all nations, must be expected to come upon us also, desponding patriotism may turn its eyes hitherward, and be assured that the foundations of our national power are still strong."

On this anniversary we can mark the wonderful progress of the past year. That flag is now honored in every State. On the land and on the sea it waves with new brilliancy. States as States are returning to their allegiance. The Constellation of the UNION is in the ascendant. Let us hope that on the next anniversary, which will be the fortieth of the Association, we shall be able to hold the anticipated public commemoration of a reunion of all the States, a restoration of the ancient feeling of mutual good-will, and of that essential, unreserved loyalty to our sacred Constitution, which has formed the people of the United States of America one great Republic, demonstrated by the passing events to be INDIVISIBLE and INVINCIBLE.

G. WASHINGTON WARREN, PRESIDENT.

June 17, 1862.

After the reading of the Report, HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP arose and said:—

I am sure that there can be but one opinion, Mr. President, in regard to the Report which has just been submitted to us from the chair. There is nothing to

be added to it, and nothing to be taken away from it. It is clear, complete, patriotic, excellent, and will be accepted by acclamation. I move its acceptance, and also that it be printed for distribution in the usual form.

The motion, as modified, with the assent of the mover, to print it with the annual proceedings, was passed unanimously.

The HON. STEPHEN FAIRBANKS submitted to the Association the following resolve :—

Resolved, That in the death of the HON. NATHAN APPLETON and the HON. WILLIAM APPLETON this Association has lost two of its most valued Directors, and two of the earliest and most earnest friends of the Monument at Bunker Hill ; and that, though their names will henceforth disappear upon our official rolls, their memories will be cherished with the respect and gratitude which belong to patriotic citizens and public benefactors.

Read and passed unanimously.

DR. J. MASON WARREN then addressed the Association substantially as follows :—

Since our last meeting, we have to regret the loss of another of our valuable associates, DR. LUTHER V. BELL, of Charlestown. DR. BELL was, as is well known, one of the most eminent practitioners in his department of the profession in New England.

No important legal case involving disputed points in medical jurisprudence has occurred here for the last twenty years in which he has not been summoned, and his opinion always commanded entire respect. DR. BELL also made important discoveries in the arts and sciences. DR. CHARLES T. JACKSON, in speaking of him before the Suffolk District Society, says: "He was not only a good anatomist and skilful surgeon, but was a man of great inventive genius, especially in the mechanical arts. To him we owe the original invention of the atmospheric dispatch-bearer or telegraph, an instrument patented by others, years after DR. BELL had given it to the public, and which is now in extensive use in England, and especially in the city of London. He was, also, the first person who pointed out the method since adopted of spinning flax,—an invention of great value, and now in extensive use throughout the world. He made many improvements in architecture, and in ventilation and warming of hospitals and buildings, and not a few destined for surgical purposes."

On the breaking out of the present rebellion, DR. BELL offered his services to government. He was appointed Surgeon to the Eleventh Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers, from which position he was promoted to the post of Brigade Surgeon. He was at the battle of Bull Run, where he was very assiduous in his

attentions to the wounded, and came very near being taken prisoner.

On his way back to Washington, he saved the life of a wounded officer by giving up to him his own horse, and conducting him on it to a place of safety. His life at last fell a sacrifice to his labors, and he died of an acute attack while in active service.

I beg leave to have the honor to offer the following resolution : —

Resolved, That we deeply regret the loss of our distinguished associate, DR. LUTHER V. BELL, of Charlestown, who, for the great good he has rendered humanity in his devotion to the practice of his profession, for his discoveries and improvements in art and science, and finally for the sacrifice of his life in the cause of the nation, merits the respect and gratitude of this Association and of his fellow-countrymen.

Read and passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS.

The President presented the following Report of a Committee : —

The Committee of the Association to whom was referred the subject of altering the By-laws with regard to membership, with authority to cause a new design of a Diploma to be executed, have attended to that duty, and ask leave to

REPORT.

The original By-laws of the Association provided that new members of the Corporation might be admitted by vote of the Directors. Under this rule, a large number of influential citizens from different parts of the State were elected members, and distinguished citizens from other States were made Honorary Members. All members not Honorary were required to pay a fee of five dollars to meet the contingent expenses of the Association.

In September, 1824, when the Association was actively canvassing for subscriptions for the erection of the Monument, it was voted, that all persons who subscribed the sum of five dollars to the objects of the institution, should thereby become members. And this vote remains in force.

The Committee recommend a return to the original mode of admitting members, with this difference — that the election be made by the Corporation upon the nomination of the Directors or of their Standing Committee.

The original Diploma was issued in 1824. It bore a view of the Battle of Bunker Hill, and a fac-simile of the signatures of the first Board of Officers, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and fourteen Directors. Of those nineteen officers of the Association, whose names are borne upon that Diploma, but three are now living —

HON. EDWARD EVERETT, GEO. TICKNOR, Esq., and COL. S. S. SWETT.

In 1833, a new Diploma was designed and issued. This was four times the size of the first Diploma, and had a fac-simile of the signatures of the officers at that time, being fifty-eight in all. Of this number more than half are now deceased, and some of the survivors are not now officers of the Association.

The Committee, under the authority given them, have caused a new design to be prepared. It has a view of the battle, and also of the Monument. It is to contain a list of the officers elected at this meeting, without any fac-simile of signatures. It is to be of the same size as the first Diploma, which is found to be more convenient for preservation, and is to bear the original signatures of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary. A contract for a steel engraving has been made with J. H. BUFFORD, for the sum of three hundred dollars. It is expected that new Diplomas will be ready for delivery on the first of September next.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following votes : —

Voted, That the By-laws as to membership be hereby amended, so that new members shall hereafter be elected by the Corporation at any regular meeting, upon the nomination of the Directors or of their Standing Committee ; that such members shall pay to the Treasurer the sum of five dollars, and shall receive a Diploma.

Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized to issue a new Diploma to any existing member upon his paying one dollar.

G. WASHINGTON WARREN.

On motion of HON. CHARLES THOMPSON, the foregoing Report was accepted, and the votes appended thereto were adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMOIR OF SOLOMON WILLARD.

WILLIAM W. WHEILDON, Esq., presented the following Report:—

The Committee, appointed on the seventeenth of June last, to prepare a Memoir of the late SOLOMON WILLARD, Architect and Superintendent of the Bunker Hill Monument, respectfully

. REPORT.

That they were wholly unable to prepare such Memoir in season for publication in the pamphlet Report of the ceremonies and proceedings of that day, as contemplated by the vote of the Association, and accordingly so informed the PRESIDENT, in a note of the tenth of July, which is contained in the pamphlet referred to.

The Committee have had two or three meetings, and the members have given such portions of time to the collection and preparation of material as they have been able to spare from other engagements. In this service they have succeeded beyond their expectations, and find reasons, from the documents and

facts which have come to their knowledge, which not only justify the Association in the measure proposed, but seem to demand the service at their hands.

The Committee believe that the purpose of biography, toward eminent or prominent men, is not merely to do honor to the dead, — a cheap reward to them, — but to afford examples of encouragement, hopefulness, and character, to the youth of our country, who are so frequently and so early in life called upon to rely upon their own exertions for advancement and success; and, at the same time, to give assurance that those efforts and that success, when attained and resulting in benefits to the community, shall be properly appreciated, justly estimated, and duly honored.

The Committee are led to believe that in nothing which has yet been given to the public has reasonable justice been done to MR. WILLARD, and especially in relation to the great national structure of which he was architect and patron, and to which he devoted, with a zeal and interest which knew no fatigue or flagging, some of the best years of his life, the only adequate compensation for which, in lieu of any other reward, is to be found in the work itself. Nor have his character and services, — the latter variously rendered in this city and elsewhere, — nor the means, self-inspired and self-created, by which he was enabled to secure the one and perform the other, ever been presented as they ought to be to the youth of the

country and to the consideration of the public judgment. Such an example as his life affords, cordially attested by those who knew him best, of untiring industry, unyielding faith and unimpeachable integrity, in word and deed,—raising himself from the laborer to the artist,—ought not to be lost; and the Committee will feel it to be their duty, if further time be allowed to them, with such authentic materials as they may possess, to do some degree of justice and honor to his memory, and make some suitable record of the valuable services so freely rendered by him to this Association.

In behalf of the Committee,

WM. W. WHEILDON.

The foregoing Report was read and accepted, and the following vote was passed by the Association:—

Voted, That the Committee, appointed June 17, 1861, to prepare a Memoir of the late SOLOMON WILLARD, be authorized to publish said Memoir, when completed, in such form as they may deem suitable; and that it be printed, with the approbation of the Standing Committee.



The Association then proceeded to ballot for the several officers of the Corporation for the ensuing year, and the following were duly chosen, viz. :—

President. — G. WASHINGTON WARREN.

Vice-Presidents. — The President of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, *ex-officio*, — CHARLES WELLS, STEPHEN FAIRBANKS, EDWARD EVERETT, ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

Directors. — James S. Amory, Thos. G. Appleton, William Appleton, Thomas Aspinwall, Eben Barker, Edward Brooks, Osmyn Brewster, Uriel Crocker, Thomas B. Curtis, George Darracott, F. Gordon Dexter, Albert Fearing, James K. Frothingham, Richard Frothingham, Nathan Hale, Nathaniel Hammond, Isaac Harris, John Homans, Henry N. Hooper, Peter Hubbell, Lynde A. Huntington, Amos A. Lawrence, James Lawrence, William R. Lawrence, Edward Lawrence, James Lee, Jr., Charles Leighton, Winslow Lewis, F. W. Lincoln, Jr., Isaac Livermore, Charles Lyman, Theophilus R. Marvin, Charles W. Moore, George B. Neal, James W. Paige, Henry A. Peirce, Thomas H. Perkins, Benjamin T. Reed, Timothy T. Sawyer, G. Howland Shaw, Nath'l B. Shurtleff, Asa Swallow, Abram R. Thompson, John H. Thorndike, John P. Thorndike, Samuel H. Walley, J. Mason Warren, Wm. W. Wheildon, J. Huntington Walcott, Joseph M. Wightman.

Treasurer. — Samuel H. Russell.

Secretary. — Samuel F. McCleary.

On motion of MR. WHEILDON it was

Voted, That hereafter the Annual Meetings of the Association be opened with prayer — the selection of the Chaplain to be left with the President.

On nomination by the Standing Committee, John H. Reed, Lucius H. Warren, William Sturgis Hooper, and Henry Lyon, were duly elected members of the Association, pursuant to the By-law this day adopted.

On motion of HON. F. W. LINCOLN, JR., the expediency of admitting minors into the Association upon the same terms and footing with adults, was referred to the Committee who reported on the subject of Diplomas, viz.:—The President, F. W. Lincoln, Benjamin T. Reed, James Lawrence, and William W. Wheildon.

The Association then adjourned.

A true abstract from the records.

Attest, S. F. McCLEARY, SECRETARY.

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